



U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED AS AN ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Resident Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Clifford Elston, and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka, announced that Jose Hernandez, age 29, of Manchester, New Hampshire was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in connection with the unlawful possession of a firearm.

During a hearing before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro, Hernandez was sentenced to a term of 15 years, 8 months in prison, followed by three years probation upon his release. Hernandez pleaded guilty on March 8, 2005, to an indictment charging him with Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person. By virtue of his prior convictions, Hernandez was sentenced as an Armed Career Criminal.

U. S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Strict enforcement of the gun laws is a priority of the Department of Justice through the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. It is a responsibility that this office takes seriously and we will make every effort to insure that those who cannot legally possess a firearm will be prevented from doing so."

The prosecution against Hernandez, resulted from an investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert J. Veiga.